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March 11, 1958

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Folder HARDTACK 1953

Major Frank Richie Joint Task Force-7 Constitution & 12th Street Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Frank:

Thank you for requesting the Public Health Service to send us a copy of the Report in Manual for Public Health Service Participants, Operation HARDTACK, at Pacific Preving Grounds during 1958. This raises a question that I do not know how to approach other than in a straight forward manner.

As you know we have always worked closely and harmonicusly en radiological safety matters. We will have a stake in this business as witness the aftermath of the event of March 1, 195h. The Atomic Energy Commission has shouldered its share of the burden following this incident, perhaps far more than JTF-7 whose individual members have, in the main, gene their many ways. Although we were aware, in general, that Public Health Service would assist in off-site operations it was disconcerning to learn for the first time last week that extensive and formal arrangements had been completed with the Public Health Service, including the development of radiological safety criteria. I am sure there has been no intentional oversight since JTF-7 and AEC have worked together in preparing the onsite criteria, but it does remind us that we should continue to work together on all such pertinent matters.

There are three points of criteria that I would question.

- (1) There is no provision for the desen people living permanently on Enisetok Island who are potentially more vulnerable than gengelap,
- (2) An emergency condition is said to exist at lr/hr. I think this should be re-examined,
- (3) We are currently going through a painful public relation problem because close beta counts, only, were taken.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

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CLASSIFICATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))

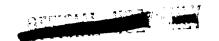
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Maj. Frank Richie

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These may help you and I obtain a "feeling" for the situation, but unfortunately past experience has shown that any number collected is subject to publication, and then misinterpretation by the public. We must do an acceptable job of isotopic analyses under conditions that preclude close contamination of the samples.

I am sorry that you had to leave for the Pacific before we could talk, but I am sure there will be plenty of opportunity when we get tegether at Eniwetok.

Sincerely yours.

Gordon M. Dunning, Chief Radiation Effects of Weapons Branch Division of Biology and Medicine

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